Reviewer's report

Title: Improving Emergency Obstetric Referral Systems in Low and Middle Income Countries: A qualitative study in a tertiary health facility in Ghana.

Version: 0 Date: 15 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Patrick Lukulay

Reviewer's report:

The work sheds light on the factors that affect emergency obstetric referrals and will help to shape policy to improve emergency obstetrics referrals. However, the title does not adequately capture the research work presented as the work goes beyond referrals as an act to include more systemic issues around referrals. I suggest to use a title like "Improving Emergency Obstetrics referral Practices in Developing Countries: A qualitative Study in a Tertiary Health Facility in Ghana. Or alternatively, Improving Emergency Obstetrics referral Systems n Developing Countries: A qualitative Study in a Tertiary Health Facility in Ghana

On Page 6, Under Referral Transportation System, it should be written so it is clearly read as the main heading for this constraint and the sub headings will follow. Same goes for the main headings for the other factors like Poor Communication.

On page 6, instead of Inadequate Use of Ambulance Services, the narrative that follows can be better described as Availability of Ambulance Services. Poor accessibility and safety can fall under availability of Ambulance Services so no need to repeat it here but should be under Availability of Ambulance Services.

On page 8, the Referral-Receiver Communication Barrier can be best described as Poor Communication between Referral-Receiving hospitals

There were references made to Type II and Type III delays without defining what these mean for non experts.

On page 14, the authors state that the challenges identified in the research are limited to the referred facility. I disagree with this because clearly, the research covered barriers at the referring facility such as inadequate completion of the referral forms, etc. This was a challenge at the referring hospital so I am not sure why the authors made this statement.

Lastly, it seems to me that Training at the referrals and receiving hospitals could be a factors in lack of quality of care. Was this identified in the research and if so please include.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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